

GAULLISTS DROP BUT MAY STILL EDGE AHEAD IN POLL

PARIS (UPI). — President Pompidou called in his top strategists yesterday to plot methods of keeping France's Communists and Socialists out of power following their first-round election success on Sunday.

The left-wing coalition, according to the latest official figures, won 40.4 per cent of the vote against the ruling Gaullists' 38.1 per cent.

Computer projections said the final round figure taking in minor left-wing factions, could give the union of the left as much as 46 per cent.

The decisive test comes next Sunday in the run-off contested by candidates who received less than 50 per cent on the original ballot.

Gaullist leader Alain Peyrefitte said: "The ultimate result will be so close it will be decided by what you can gather inside a handkerchief."

If all the left-wing forces join hands next Sunday, political experts forecast the Gaullists could still just retain control of the national assembly. They said the Gaullists, who won 46 seats on the first round, could finish with a total of 255 to 285 seats, a majority of 10 to 20.

Much will depend on the position of the middle-road reform group and whether it will cooperate this week with the Gaullists in the energetic horse-trading that traditionally goes on before the run-off. Jean Lecanuet, one of the reformist leaders, said: "We will do everything to stop the Communists from winning the next round."

Mr. Pompidou is not due for re-election until 1978, but he is backed by the Gaullists and has already said he will not name a left-wing premier.

Gaullist sources, who said President Pompidou did not expect the left to win, forecast that there would be a pattern of local agreements between government candidates and the reformers, who generally finished well down the poll on Sunday.

But they did not expect an agreement on the national level between Mr. Pompidou and reformers Lecanuet and Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber.

Socialist Party leader Francois Mitterrand claimed the result was a "serious defeat" for the Gaullists. It was especially satisfactory because it showed the new balance between Socialists and Communists, he said.

Asked how it augured for the second round, Mr. Mitterrand said the left would need four or five per cent more votes to win a parliamentary majority. But he said the "unjust" drawing of constituency boundaries could prevent an overall left-wing victory.

Some country districts, which normally tend to vote Gaullist or conservative, have only about 15,000 registered voters. But some left-leaning big city voting districts have more than 100,000.

This has resulted in voting anomalies. In 1967 it took an average of 70,000 votes to elect a Communist but only 43,000 to elect a Gaullist. In 1968 the Communists needed 130,000 votes for each man elected whereas the Gaullists needed only 24,000.



Clad in pajamas, the passengers of the ill-fated a.s. Soudan arrived at Lod Airport from Beirut, via Cyprus, Sunday night. The ship sank in Beirut harbour after a blast of unknown origin ripped it open. None of the passengers — 282 Christian pilgrims from the U.S. — was hurt. (Bar-Tal)

All pilgrims from cruise ship here

Jerusalem Post Reporter

All 282 U.S. pilgrims rescued from their blown-up cruise ship in Beirut on Saturday night, were in Jerusalem last night. The first batch of 80 arrived in the capital yesterday morning, the rest following from Netanyahu towards dusk.

They spent most of the day catching up on their sleep except for short shopping excursions for clothes. They were rescued in pajamas and nightgowns after an explosion rocked their excursion ship at 10.15 p.m. Saturday. The ship, the Soudan, sank in Beirut harbour. The tourists' flimsy protection was augmented only by overcoats acquired in Cyprus during a brief stopover on Sunday on their way to Haifa.

Most of the tourists were put up in three East Jerusalem hotels, the Capitol, the Palace and the Panorama. The others were accommodated in the Shalom Hotel, in Bayit Vegan.

The pilgrims are remaining in Jerusalem today, when they will visit holy sites, and leave for Haifa and Galilee tomorrow. The group, comprising Methodists and Baptists, end their visit on Thursday.

Soviet warships on 7-day visit to Syria

MOSCOW (AP). — A group of Soviet warships will pay a seven-day official visit to Syria starting today, Tass said yesterday.

The group, including a cruiser, a destroyer and a submarine, will be under Admiral Viktor Syrovov, commander of the Black Sea fleet, and will stay at the port of Latakia.

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Bird of prey attacks child, 2, in sand dunes

ASHKELON. — A toddler who disappeared from his home in Ashdod yesterday morning was found unconscious two hours later, after being attacked by a bird of prey.

Meir Kakushvili, 2½, was left by his mother in the care of his grandmother, who noticed his disappearance at 11 a.m. A search began immediately. About two hours later, a teenage boy ran back from the sand dunes south of Ashdod, saying he had seen a child covered with blood lying there.

The child was taken to Ashkelon Hospital with his body covered with peck-wounds and a finger and parts of his ears missing. It is believed he cut himself while wandering in the dunes, and the blood attracted the bird. He was reported out of danger last night. (Itim)

Dr. A. Borai, of the Hebrew University Zoology Department, told The Post that "even birds such as eagles or even crows were capable of attacking an unconscious human, but even in such cases it is unlikely to cause serious harm even if he was bleeding."

French pilots to strike after airliners crash

PARIS (Reuters). — French airline pilots last night voted to stop work following yesterday's collision of two Spanish airliners over Brittany with the loss of 68 lives.

The pilots' action was taken in protest at the present control of air traffic in France by military personnel during a two-week-old strike by air traffic controllers.

In London last night the British Airline Pilots' Association ordered its members to refuse to fly into or over France. (See crash story, page 4)

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Meir staying in office: 'guarded optimism'

Jerusalem Post Political Reporter

Labour Party leaders yesterday expressed with guarded optimism Prime Minister Golda Meir's statement that it was the party that would decide whether she would continue in her post after the October Knesset elections. Several Labour members believed that Mrs. Meir's statement on Sunday's CBS "Face the Nation" interview that "I have a party, it doesn't matter what I decide," represents a departure from her previous adamant refusal to remain in the helm.

The interview was shown on last night's "Meir" TV programme. Asked whether this meant that she had changed her previous decision not to run, Mrs. Meir said: "I have made many decisions in my life which I could not implement because of various reasons."

Labour Party Secretary-General Aharon Yadin M.K. said yesterday he had always hoped the Prime Minister would respond favourably to her colleagues' request to stay in office, because Israel needs her so much.

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday firmly denied a report in "Ma'ariv" that Mrs. Meir had sent word to the party not to misinterpret the interview, saying that her decision not to run remains unchanged. "The Premier did not send any clarifying message regarding her CBS interview," it was stated. (Leader, Page 3)

'Hussein offers Israel military posts on W. Bank'

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — King Hussein has proposed that Jordan offer Israel the right to place defensive military posts along the West Bank of the River Jordan for a period of up to several years, syndicated columnist Rowland Evans and Robert Novak reported yesterday.

The columnists said the new proposal was transmitted privately to the U.S. by King Hussein.

They called the offer an extraordinary concession to Israel in terms of delaying complete Arab sovereignty over the West Bank, which Israel has held since the 1967 war.

The offer was contingent on Israel, in turn, giving Jordan sovereignty in at least part of Arab Jerusalem, they said.

They added, however, that King Hussein's apparent eagerness to make a separate West Bank settlement with Israel would go unrecalled while Israeli Premier Golda Meir remained adamant against granting Arab sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

The two columnists also wrote the only tangible result so far from what President Nixon termed his Middle East month in February is "a secret White House decision to take a new, highly exploratory look at prospects for settling the Arab-Israeli dispute." This is to be made by Henry Kissinger's National Security Council staff.

ICAO meets to pick investigation c'tee

MONTREAL (AP). — The International Civil Aviation Organization said yesterday its governing council is meeting here to establish a committee to investigate the downing of the Libyan jetliner in the Sinai desert two weeks ago.

An ICAO spokesman said the investigation was ordered last week at an extraordinary general assembly of the organization in New York. The meeting is being held behind closed doors.

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Europe too lenient with terrorists says Meir

By SAM LIPSKI
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK — Prime Minister Golda Meir yesterday praised President Nixon for saying the U.S. would not give in to terrorist blackmail. But she was critical of some European nations for tolerating such blackmail and hoped that the tragic killing of three diplomats in Khartoum might induce the Europeans to take stronger action against the terrorists.

"Arab blackmail has paid off," Mrs. Meir told a group of 800 American Jewish leaders at a question-and-answer session in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Speaking to a meeting arranged by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Mrs. Meir said that after all that had happened in Munich and Bangkok there was only one Arab terrorist in prison in Europe and a few others who had been interrogated in Austria. The others who had been detained were all free and the Arab countries had been glad to receive them.

Mrs. Meir reported on the internal situation in Israel in a number of areas and repeated earlier assessments that her talks with President Nixon had been "serious, frank, and productive."

After a reception on Sunday night at the home of the Israeli Ambassador, Yosef Tekoa, Mrs. Meir yesterday met Mayor John Lindsay and Representative Ogden Reid (Dem. N.Y.) at her hotel and was the guest of "The New York Times" at a luncheon. She was due to meet a group of Canadian Jewish leaders later before speaking to a mass rally for the United Jewish Appeal last night.

clear that the U.S. would be angry if the Sudanese fail to levy the most extreme penalty possible.

"Although I've always had some reservations about the death penalty or capital punishment when it is applied across the board, I have no hesitation in supporting the death penalty for this kind of activity," Mr. Rogers said. "I don't know what else can be done."

Mr. Rogers said he talked to President Nixon about the situation on Sunday, and the President was "very concerned and upset." The Secretary said "very extreme measures" would be taken shortly to provide protection for U.S. diplomats overseas. He did not specify these steps.

He said the assassinations of Ambassador Cleo Noel and deputy chief of mission George Curtis Moore were "a threat to human decency and international life."

"We can't have guards for all our diplomats everywhere, and everyone connected with them," he said. "There just aren't enough to go around."

Mr. Rogers said he believed that if the death penalty were not used, terrorists "will continue to hijack planes and engage in these kidnappings."

Elaborating on the difficulty of the problem, he commented, "Who would have expected they would invade a social function at a Saudi Arabian Embassy in Khartoum?"

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Rogers urges death for Khartoum killers

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BULLETIN:

CASABLANCA (Reuters). — Two high-explosive parcel bombs were found planted at the U.S. Consulate-General and the U.S. Cultural Centre in Casablanca, official Moroccan sources said yesterday.

ABU DAUD & 15 OTHERS Kuwait ruler appeals for clemency

By ANAN SAFADI
Jerusalem Post Arab Affairs Reporter

The ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Salem Sabah, yesterday sent a personal message to Jordan's King Hussein urging the King to commute the execution of Fatah leader Mohammed Daoud Oudeh ("Abu Daud") and about 15 other terrorists.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency said the Kuwait ruler's message to the Jordanian monarch was sent with an embassy aboard a special plane which left Kuwait for Amman yesterday afternoon.

King Hussein on Sunday had sentenced them to death for infiltrating into Jordan in order to carry out subversive activity.

Abu Daud was arrested last month while in Amman to prepare for a

DOLLAR RISES SHARPLY

LONDON. — The U.S. dollar improved sharply in bank-to-bank dealings yesterday as European foreign exchange markets remained shut for the second day and monetary experts sought ways of forestalling a renewal of a speculative onslaught on the dollar.

Dealers said the dollar's improvement apparently came from some profit-taking by speculators who unloaded more than \$15,000m. during the past two weeks in order to buy stronger currencies. Experts doubted the improvement would last.

As the dollar moved up from historic lows, the price of gold declined in free bullion markets and the British pound, one of Europe's weakest currencies, slumped.

The American money was still way below the new par value set for it when it was devalued by 10 per cent on February 12.

It opened at 2.77 marks in the key Frankfurt market which bore the brunt of the speculative attacks on the dollar during recent weeks. That was half a penny down from Friday's closing \$2.80. The pound slumped to 2.80 marks, however, from Friday's 2.85, a drop of nearly 12 pennings.

The dollar's new par value is 2.8003 marks.

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Jerusalem Post Arab Affairs Reporter and Agencies

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"There will be a trial and murder charges," a government statement said yesterday.

The acting Attorney-General ordered formation of an investigating committee, under State Prosecutor general Abbas Suleiman Ibrahim, to probe "all the incidents which took place at the Saudi Arabian embassy."

The eight Black September gunmen who beat, kicked and shot the U.S. diplomats and the Belgian Chargé d'Affaires during the siege, were in a Khartoum military prison, being questioned by Sudanese authorities yesterday.

Mr. Macomber, who flew to the Sudan to attempt to negotiate with the terrorists during the time they were holding five diplomats hostage, had a half-hour meeting with President Ja'far Numeiri on Sunday night.

An American embassy spokesman said they discussed American-Sudanese relations in light of the embassy tragedy, but gave no further details.

Mr. Macomber accompanied the bodies of the two dead Americans back to the U.S. yesterday.

A Sudanese army band played, "Auld Lang Syne" as the two bodies were loaded into a presidential jet for the trip back to the U.S.

The entire diplomatic corps of Khartoum was on the runway, many

take-over of the Jordanian Prime Minister's office during a Cabinet meeting. The Fatah leader, who is believed to be linked to the Black September, is said to have led a group of terrorists into Jordan from Syria and Iraq as part of a plan aimed at forcing the Jordanian government to resign while King Hussein was visiting the U.S.

The Moslem Supreme Council in East Jerusalem and a group of Nablus notables yesterday sent King Hussein messages urging him to withhold the execution.

Relatives of Abu Daud living in Belwan on the outskirts of Jerusalem yesterday sent an embassy to Amman to explore the possibility of sending a family deputation to seek clemency from Hussein. Abu Daud's family sources said his relatives yesterday decided against going to Amman before guaranteeing their own safety there.

NEW CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE

King Hussein last night appointed an arch-enemy of the terrorists, Maj.-Gen. Mohammed Hammad Hammad, as his country's intelligence chief. It indicated the king was toughening his stand against the terrorists.

Kellani was ousted from the same post in September 1970 under terrorist pressure. He replaced Brig. Nasir Raadid, who now has a senior post in the army.

'Lebanon taking over I.P.C. installations'

BEIRUT (AP). — Lebanon decided yesterday to appropriate the Iraq Petroleum Company's installations in Lebanon, including the IPC refinery near Tripoli.

Informed sources said the decision was taken at a ministerial council meeting. Minister of Economy Anwar Sabah and Minister of Industry and Oil Pierre Helou were assigned to inform IPC on "Lebanon's legal step," the sources said.

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A U.S. marine guard of honour escorts the coffin of the U.S. Ambassador to Sudan, Cleo Noel, to the presidential jet for the flight home yesterday after Black September terrorists killed him and two other diplomats in Khartoum on Friday night. (AP radiophoto)

Sudan to put terrorists on trial for murder

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The sources said Sudanese officials who had accompanied U.S. Undersecretary of State William Macomber to the airport approached other U.S. diplomats and told them: "They will be executed."

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Temporary showers with local thunderstorms.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min.-Max.	forecast
Jerusalem	50	5-12	2-9
Colan	42	1-11	0-7
Nahariya	49	1-19	0-17
Safed	49	3-11	1-9
Haifa	39	8-18	8-15
Tiberias	27	8-21	6-17
Nazareth	43	6-16	4-13
Afula	43	2-18	6-16
Shomron	44	6-13	3-9
Tel Aviv	44	7-18	3-14
Lot	43	7-18	3-14
Jericho	40	9-21	8-18
Gaza	72	7-17	8-15
Beersheba	78	5-16	4-13
Eilat	27	8-22	7-19
Tiran	5	11-24	9-21

Social and Personal

The new Bolivian Ambassador, Roberto P. Hertzog, called on Knesset Speaker Yisrael Yeshayahu yesterday.

Two Swedish Members of Parliament, Gunnar Heien (chairman of the Liberal Party) and Per Ahlmark, were the guests of Tourism Minister Moshe Kol at the Jerusalem Theatre yesterday.

Mr. V.S. Mathur, Secretary General of the Asian regional organization of the ICAU, yesterday called on the Secretary-General of the Histadrut, Mr. Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, and on his deputy, Mr. Yehoram Meshel. Mr. Stylli Demitroy, President of the Turkish Trade Unions, was yesterday the luncheon guest of the Histadrut Secretary-General.

Dr. Zalman Mazor has been elected chairman of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa branch of the Israel Dental Association. His deputy is Dr. Mordechai Zoret.

Dr. Galton of the Dept. of Hematology, at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London, will lecture on "Acute Myeloid Leukemia" today, March 6, 1973, at 12:00 noon in Hall "Vav," Second floor, of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, Ein Kerem, Jerusalem.

The Vocal Newspaper in Jerusalem this Friday night will consist of a panel of journalists who will answer questions from the audience. The panelists: Yosef Harif of "Ma'ariv," Danny Halperin of the Finance Ministry, and Gad Levy of Israel Broadcasting, Friday, 8.30, at Beit Ha'am.

ARRIVALS

A group of 20 members of Parliament from Austria, headed by Otto Probst, for a week's visit as guests of the Labour Party here (by El Al).
An official British delegation led by the director of the British Civil Aviation Authority, Mr. O. Williams, to negotiate a new air traffic agreement with Israel.
Prof. Martin Schmidt, head of the Faculty of Astronomy at the California Institute of Technology, to conduct a short seminar at Tel Aviv University (by ELAL).
Arnold Forster, General Counsel, Anti-Defamation League, and Lawrence Peles, Chairman of the Civil Rights Executive Committee, for the 2nd British Board of Governors meeting.
Mr. David Lerman, Director of Public Relations and Promotion of "Israel Magazine," after ten weeks in the U.S. on behalf of its publishers, Spotlight Publications.

J'lem man makes attempt on life

A Jerusalem resident shot himself in the head yesterday on the main highway near Jerusalem.
A cab driver making his way to Tel Aviv saw the man, aged 48, sitting on the roadside retaining wall with a pistol in his hand. He alerted a policeman who passed by on a motorcycle, and the latter approached the man. But before the policeman could do anything, the man aimed the pistol at his temple and pulled the trigger.
He was taken to hospital in critical condition. (Tm)

Bar-Lev waits for visitors who didn't arrive

LOD AIRPORT. — Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Bar-Lev waited — in vain — here last night for guests who didn't arrive. They were Mauritius' Minister of Commerce and Industry, Jean Marie Michel Guy Marchand, and two other senior government officials, who were due to arrive from Brussels by Sabena.
Ministry officials last night said they received no word of the postponement or cancellation of the visit. (Tm)

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Economic Counsellor
Israeli Embassy, Bonn

HAIFA SPY TRIAL

ADIV GAVE SYRIA INFORMATION ON 'HIGHLY SECRET WEAPON'

By YAACOV FRIEDLER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The principal Jewish accused in the trial of six suspected members of a Syrian spy ring said yesterday he had given information "on a highly secret weapon" to Syrian Intelligence.

Under cross examination, Ehud Adiv said he had been "dragged" into giving military information to the Syrian agent and that he regretted having done so.

The "secret weapon" had been named previously in a closed session of the court. It was not allowed to be mentioned yesterday.

Adiv and another Jewish defendant, Dan Vered, testified under oath. Three Arab defendants who read statements insisted that they had had no intention of harming state security or aiding the enemy in his war against Israel, as charged.

The sixth accused, Simon Hadad, who was convicted last week after pleading guilty to an amended indictment, did not take the stand.

Only Adiv called defence witnesses — his girl friend, and an army colonel who, in camera, gave his assessment of the intelligence value of the information Adiv admittedly passed in Syria.

Adiv, alleged head of the Jewish section of the ring, chose to testify under oath, but refused to swear on the Bible. "I don't believe in it," he said.

Led by his attorney, Ram Caspi, he told how he had received a Hashomer Hatzair education in his home kibbutz, Gan Shmuel, and had been especially impressed by one of his teachers who had stressed the idea of peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs.

He did his army service in Nahal, rising to the rank of corporal. Three years after demobilization he left the kibbutz to study. During the Six Day War he served with a paratroop unit in Jerusalem.

"Three quarters of our men were killed or wounded" by Jordanian shelling. "We had the most casualties of any unit. In fact all I did was evacuate wounded under fire," he said. He himself had not been hurt.

This experience had made a deep impression. He felt the result had not been worth the sacrifice. "Nobody understood that war, murder and killing must be stopped," he went on, and said this had led him to his extremist leftist opinions.

He joined Matzpen, but was disappointed by "the good intentions which were not carried out in the members' private lives." With others, he established the "Revolutionary Communist Union."

In the course of distributing brochures, he met Daoud Turki, the principal accused, who agreed to sell them in his Haifa bookshop. Turki proposed that he meet Habib Kahawaji, (who allegedly operated the ring from Syria) in Athens. Turki described Kahawaji as a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Adiv should meet him to "discuss our similar political opinions."

Adiv had not known Kahawaji nor the Fatah. They had spent long hours discussing the situation in Israel.

"He also displayed an interest in military matters. I was dragged along by him. He asked and I replied. I did not think myself capable of harming state security," Adiv said.

'POLITICAL MATTERS'

He went to Athens a second time, at Kahawaji's invitation, "to meet more people on political matters." Kahawaji proposed taking him to Syria "to meet members of our organization. I understood he meant Palestinians holding similar opinions."

Once in Damascus, Adiv went on, "I didn't meet people. It was not what I expected. I was dragged into military matters."

Kahawaji had proposed his training in arms and explosives. "His training seemed ridiculous to me. After my army service I could have trained them."

He admitted giving Kahawaji military information, but "all I planned was a Jewish-Arab revolution in Israel. They wanted to destroy the State. I only wanted a juster regime."

As to the secret code he had been given, "I didn't want it. I tried only once to listen to messages from Radio Damascus, with Dan Vered."

He also thought "ridiculous" the invisible ink he had been given to transmit secret information and told Turki so. But Turki said it was important to convince Kahawaji there were Jews in Israel willing to share the struggle against the regime. Before throwing it away, he used the ink to transmit "information I had already given them."

In the 18 months, until his arrest, he said he "made no effort to collect any information. I told the others to do so, because I was asked to."

With his parents and sister anxiously following every word he said, Adiv, under cross examination by District Attorney Yitzhak Grahli, said he had understood his trip to Syria was illegal.

Asked why he thought Kahawaji had given him money, Adiv said: "I thought he was ready to do so for political interests and not as payment for services rendered." He had tried to recruit members only for the "Red Front." He had sent letters abroad in invisible ink because he knew he was doing something illegal, and even unimportant information might be held against him.

He said he had no intention of carrying out sabotage or personal terror, "to which Lenin objected," though in the long run he had planned armed struggle to establish a proletarian regime. "I received no arms, and only intended to get them later for self-defence, especially against right-wing organizations."

Pressed about the "secret weapon," he had done so, claiming that he had "known it from my army service. Every combat soldier knows it and I didn't consider it important." He had also given information on military bases and drawn sketches of the Tel Nof airfield and a Nahal base.

'IT'S NOT MY STYLE'

"I did not think I was making any revelations. I didn't think these things were secret or that anyone did not know them. I regret that I passed information. I did so because he asked me. It is not my style."

He added however: "I feel at peace with myself. Some things I did renounce, but not everything." Dan Vered told how he had flunked out of the Technion and had been given a medical discharge from the army after one month of service. He had later gone to the U.S. to study.

On his return to Israel in 1970, he had taught first at the Technion and later in high school. He had

joined Matzpen — but had left "because they only preached" — and gone over to the Revolutionary Communists, where he met Adiv. He had gone to Athens to meet Kahawaji in June 1972 at Adiv's request, and had agreed to go to Damascus with him.

Under cross examination, with the judges putting questions and demanding a straight answer, Vered — after an initial denial — admitted he had known Kahawaji represented the terrorists or the Syrian Intelligence. He said he had nevertheless gone to Damascus "because the trip tempted me."

He said the military information he had passed was so well known, about Lydda and Sde Dov airfields, and the fact that the Air Force flew Phantoms and Mirages, that he did not consider it secret. He had learned the secret code and taught it to Adiv "because I was sent by him, and I felt I owed it to him."

'IF I HAD KNOWN...'

In answer to his attorney, Ram Caspi, he said: "If I had known what I was doing and its implications I would not have done it."

Pressed why he had not left once he realized who Kahawaji was and what his real intentions were, Vered turned and twisted, claiming he had acted "for Ehud." Asked whether he had been "ready to sacrifice your liberty because Ehud sent you," he said, "definitely." When the D.A. said, "look, you're a clever man, answer sensibly," Vered replied: "You say I'm clever. I think I'm a fool, and that's why I'm here in the dock."

Mr. Caspi had earlier pleaded unsuccessfully to have the charges of "passing secret information liable to harm state security" struck from Vered's indictment on the ground that his information was not secret, and he had not intended to harm the State. He refused to re-examine his client on the grounds that "the court's remarks during the cross examination leave no room for it," and indicated he was likely to appeal the verdict.

Daoud Turki, in an hour-long statement, set out his motives and ideology. He sharply attacked "oppression of Arabs" in Israel, de-

nounced the Six Day War "conquests," opposed Zionism and supported cooperation of Jewish and Arab workers in "Palestine."

He claimed the aim of his organization was not to harm the State's sovereignty but a joint, armed struggle for a socialist revolution. This aim could not be realized by 20 or even 100 men, or within a few years. "It will take time, but this regime can be overthrown only by force," he said.

The arms he had expected from Syria had been intended only for "self defence against Rabbi Kahane's Jewish Defence League," he said.

POLITICAL, NOT TERROR

"I consider myself a Palestinian Arab, part of the Arab nation, but my attitude is international, not against the Jewish people. We must act together to prevent war, bloodshed and foreign intervention. My original aim was political but definitely not devoted to terror."

Later in the day-long session, he fell asleep while Vered was wrangling about his Communist ideologies. Subhi Narani and Anis Karawi, who had both served jail terms for crossing into the Gaza Strip before 1967, also read statements denouncing the "oppression of Arabs and Sephardi Jews" in Israel. They claimed this policy had made it impossible for them to do anything but the meanest jobs in Israel and had driven them to extremism.

Both strongly denied having intended to harm state security or of aiding the enemy.

The trial will continue tomorrow when the prosecution will sum up its case. The defence attorneys are then to make their summations.

Two Bat Yam men tried to cross to Syria

SAFAD. — Two young men from Bat Yam who had been caught trying to cross the border into Syria a month ago were on Sunday ordered released on bail till trial. Neither is suspected of intent to harm the security of the State.

The two, aged 22 and 20, were caught by security forces near the cease-fire lines in the vicinity of Kuneitra on February 6. (Tm)



Yosef Atlas, who said he escaped from detention after waiting four months for his trial, ringed by detectives after a press conference he held in the Knesset yesterday

Escaped prisoner holds press talk at Knesset

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

A suspect who escaped from detention in the Tel Mond lockup two weeks ago held a press conference yesterday in the Knesset, under the auspices of Shalom Cohen, M.K. (Independent).

Yosef Atlas, 18, was the object of a police chase in the streets of Jerusalem only the night before. He and another escaped prisoner were riding in an army jeep when they were spotted by police. They tried to escape, but the chasing detectives shot and hit one of the wheels, and caught the other man, Eliyahu Yehoshua, 18.

Atlas had managed to get away. Yesterday, according to Shalom Cohen, Atlas simply walked to the Knesset visitors' gate and was admitted by showing his identity card, like any other visitor. He was accompanied by Saadia Marclano, former Black Panther leader and a supporter of Shalom Cohen.

The two approached Mr. Cohen and asked him to enable Atlas to tell his story — of prison horrors. Mr. Cohen said he agreed, on condition that Atlas give himself up to police immediately after the press conference.

Atlas, who admitted having been in and out of jails since age nine, said he escaped from Tel Mond, together with two others, after waiting there four months for a trial on charges of theft. He claimed he never committed. He said he had been placed in a cell housing four times as many persons as it was designed to hold, and was subject

to all the hardships suffered by convicted criminals — despite the fact that he had not yet been found guilty.

The prisoners were kept under lock for 23 hours a day, without medical attention, and with younger prisoners in constant danger of being raped by the older men, he said.

The suspect said he was forced to turn to crime by his social environment, and would have been able to leave it by entering military service — as he had been about to do when arrested. Being kept in jail until his trial, he charged, prevented him from getting this chance.

Following the conference, Atlas was taken to the gate by the Knesset guards, and turned over to police.

Labour asked to 'disown' attack on army establishment

Jerusalem Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Elgar ideological circle of the Labour Party has asked the party leadership to disassociate itself from the attack on the defence establishment launched by Party Tel Aviv Branch Secretary Dov Ben-Meir in his new book.

Herzliah Mayor Yosef Nevo, who is a Colonel in the reserves, wrote his complaint to party headquarters on behalf of former high army officers who are members of Elgar.

Mr. Ben-Meir, who is very close to Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir and Tel Aviv Mayor Yehoshua Rabinowitz, had written that "the defence establishment is not ready to put up with a Defence Minister without an army background." Mr. Nevo was particularly indignant with Mr. Ben-Meir's charge that "until we get a MacNamara of our own... it will never be clear whether the entry of generals into the Cabinet... is aimed at securing the military's obedience to the civilian government."

Speaking for himself and his colleagues, Mayor Nevo found that Mr. Ben-Meir "was libelling army commanders who have always revealed boundless loyalty to civilian authority and the nation's democratic institutions." He wanted the party to take issue with the charges of this party office holder.

Asked to comment last night, Mr. Ben-Meir claimed his words had been taken out of context. "I have written all I wished to say in my book, which speaks for itself."

Gvati: farm damage estimated at IL70m.

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter

Agriculture Minister Haim Gvati told the Knesset yesterday that damage caused to this year's crops was at least IL70m. Discussing his Ministry's budget for the coming year, he said "that this was the estimate which had been submitted by the Natural Damage Insurance Fund, but he suspected that the figure was much higher than that."

Almost every region of the country had been hit by the cruel frost which arrived in December and the first weeks of January, he said. The frost — the likes of which we have not seen for several decades — had severely damaged orchards, sub-tropical fruits, vegetables and flowers. Some 30,000 dunams (220,000 tons) of Jaffa oranges were destroyed, as were over 1,000 tons of avocado and 15,000 tons of bananas — about a quarter of the total crop.

The frost, the Minister said, had damaged trees as well, and many will have to be replanted. Because of the frost and lack of rain 1972/73 was not going to be as good a year as 1971/72, in which agricultural production rose by 17 per cent at current prices. Though farmers' net income rose by 10.8 per cent, real income actually dropped in relation to other wage earners. Whereas in 1971 farmers earned 89 per cent of the average national wage, this dropped to slightly over 85 per cent last year.

In 1972, the Minister reported, seven new settlements had been established in the administered territories, and six more are currently under construction. These were being built in the Golan, the Jordan and Beisan valleys, in Gaza and Southern Sinai.

West Bank agriculture had taken a great leap forward, he reported. Whereas total income from agriculture had been IL110m. in 1969,

Employers today rule on inflation c'ttee

Jerusalem Post Staff

The fate of the Government-proposed tripartite committee on inflation hangs on whether the Manufacturers Association decides today whether or not to join it.

Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir has made it clear that without the employers he sees no point in setting up the committee, aimed at hammering out an agreed policy between all three sectors — Government, management and labour.

But the employers feel the workers have already gained their wage rise for 1973 and that the burden of restraint would thus fall on the businesses.

Mr. Sapir left Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba yesterday after six days of medical check-up. But in his hospital room — on Sunday he consulted with the heads of the big three banks, the Governor of the Bank of Israel, and the Accountant-General. The main subject was now the banks can help combat inflation.

It is reliably learned that Mr. Sapir suggested the banks increase their loans to the Government from

IL260m. (as provided for in budget estimate for 1972/73) to IL400m. Also, he proposed a 10% rise in the deposit rate, which could also be deposited in the Treasury.

In addition to the increased in the Government earlier tabled suggestions to tax profits of banks, insurance companies. But on Sunday that although they indeed made respectable gains, of the money has been ploughed back into investment. Tying the profits would hurt development, consumption, they said.

As to the loan, the banks have also not yet committed themselves. Should the IL400m. be channelled to the Treasury, credit to the public is expected to be further increased. Some bankers fear this combination of an official squeeze with a sellers' market and rising prices, may cause a resurgence of "black" credit facilities, such as a brokerage, which flourished two years ago.

Another meeting with the banks has been scheduled for tomorrow.

How the Liberals would fight inflation

TEL AVIV. — The Liberal Party, traditionally the party of the businessman, has come up with its own programme for combating inflation. The Chairman of the Liberals' Executive, Simcha Erlich, unveiled it at a press conference yesterday prior to bringing it before the Executive of the Herut-Liberal bloc (Gahal) for approval.

Aside from economies in Government spending, Mr. Erlich recommends a tripartite agreement between the Government, the Histadrut and the manufacturers. The accord would freeze taxes, wages and prices for a year, from April 1973.

The Liberal Party leader added a proviso that consumer commodity prices would first be adjusted to take into account rises that have already occurred in wages and the price of raw materials. In addition, prices would reflect any rise in the cost of raw materials in the course of the year resulting from the world monetary crisis.

Mr. Erlich would also have the Government and the local authorities freeze IL600m. in their development budgets, at least until after elections, and the Government pay another IL400m. (three per cent) from its current expenditure. Furthermore, he would reduce the compulsory loan levied only on employers from six per cent to four of their payroll.

The Liberal Party spokesman urged the Government not to spend the IL400m. It has budgeted for subsidies of staple food items. He suggested that instead of subsidizing the consumer, the Treasury subsidize the needy directly.

A recommendation bound to favour the laborers but likely to displease the parties would leave unused a third of the funds allocated by the Knesset as election expenses.

According to Mr. Erlich, the Government plans to present a IL1,000m. supplementary budget to cover rising costs. He said it would be pointless to mop up money from the public only to spend it again under the supplementary budget.

(The Treasury denied Mr. Erlich's claim.)

In answer to a question, Mr. Erlich said the Liberals are not opposed to the income tax relief due to come into force in April, though he personally did not think it would contribute to the fight against inflation. On the other hand, the Liberals think an added value tax should be introduced as soon as possible as a way of mopping up money from the public. (See page 1)

'Much more' rain needed for Kinneret

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Yesterday's unexpected rains were "very good," but several more days of heavy rain are needed to fill up Lake Kinneret, a Mekorot spokesman said last night.

Officials last week predicted that unless March sees a lot more rain, the Kinneret's water level may go down by more than a metre, and Israel's water deficit would reach 1,000m. cubic metres by the end of the summer.

The forecast for today is more rain, with strong winds in the afternoon, in northern and central Israel. Tomorrow may be cloudy with scattered showers, the weatherman said last night.

Yesterday's rainfall, in millimetres, was measured: Jerusalem 4; Tel Aviv 1; Golan Heights 1; Nahariya 2; Lydda 0.8; Gaza 5; and Beersheba 1.

Hash smugglers get stiffer penalties

The Supreme Court yesterday increased the penalties of three of the eight persons convicted last year in the Ra'anana hashish smuggling case. Sixty-seven kilos of hashish were discovered last March when the police raided a house in Ra'anana where the smugglers were packing it inside shock absorbers for shipment abroad.

Moshe Savion, 42, got two years added to his previous three-year sentence; Arye Nahari, 44, got in addition to his 18-month sentence, an 18-month suspended sentence, plus a IL60,000 fine — or a year's jail; and Aharon Friedman, 42, was also fined IL50,000 in addition to his previous 18-month jail sentence.

Both the prosecution and the defence had appealed against the earlier sentences — the latter hoping to get them reduced. But the Supreme Court held that a more severe sentence was mandatory for persons trafficking in drugs in order to get rich quickly. (Tm)

TODAY'S POSTBAG

THE 10TH ANNUAL BIBLE contest for youth, sponsored by the Israel Bible Society, will hold its national finals in Givatayim tonight, with 14 boys and girls, champions of contests in 85 high schools, taking part.

THE STRIKE by the Electric Corporation's southern district linemen, which began eight days ago over the suspension of three of their members, ended last night with compromise worked out by their national works committee.

SUDAN

(Continued from page 1)

of them weeping openly, when the two flag-draped coffins were loaded into the plane by fork-lift trucks. The Sudanese Minister of public service and administration, Abdul-Rahman Abdelal, accompanied the bodies to the U.S. He will convey Sudan's condolences personally to President Nixon.

The wives of the two men, holding back their tears, went down the long line of diplomats and embassy staff shaking hands and saying goodbye.

Mrs. Moore stopped to embrace each of the four U.S. marine guards who guarded the coffins.

The two murdered U.S. diplomats will be buried in Arlington National cemetery, the State Department said yesterday.

A spokesman said a plane carrying the bodies would be met at Andrews air force base, outside Washington, by Secretary of State William Rogers.

The body of Guy Eid, the murdered Belgian Charge d'Affaires was flown to Cairo yesterday and buried after a funeral service at a Greek Catholic church.

Eid was Egyptian-born and a naturalized Belgian.

In Beirut, King Faisal's government denied yesterday it was cracking down on an estimated 50,000 Palestinians living in Saudi Arabia in retaliation for the attack on its Khartoum embassy.

A Lebanese newspaper had reported Saudi Arabia is "reconsidering the status of all Palestinian residents or naturalized," as a result of the Khartoum operation.

The statement, broadcast by Riyadh Radio, also denied Saudi Arabia will assign units of its national guard force to its embassies in Arab world.

"These reports are all untrue," the government statement said.

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El Al getting its third Jumbo

Post Aviation Correspondent
AVIV. — El Al's third Jumbo will join the national fleet on April 13, when it will be handed over to the airline in Seattle, site of the Boeing aircraft plant. The new Jumbo will go into service on its first non-stop London flight on April 22, after it arrives in Israel from Seattle.

No tourist cancellations for next two months

Jerusalem Post Aviation Reporter
 There is no information on any cancellations by group tours or individual bookings over the next two months. Tourism Ministry sources pointed to requests for additional landing rights by several airlines, in anticipation of an expected flow of visitors during summer (see page 8), and to a statement by TWA's chief in Israel that his company expected an increase of more than 25 per cent in traffic to Israel in this period.

Mathematics of no interest to electoral reform

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter
 The Alignment-Gahal majority in the Knesset Law Committee, which is preparing the Ofer-Bader electoral reform proposal to redistribute surplus votes — yesterday said it was not interested in the mathematical implications of the proposed reform, so long as they do not contradict the Alignment-Gahal position to make the large factions larger and the small factions smaller.

Large makes allowance for ex-soccer star

AVIV. — The glorious past of national soccer hero "Shay" Ofer served him in good stead when he appeared before a Tel Aviv magistrate yesterday for insulting a policeman who gave him a traffic summons.

there and a convenient time for transportation to the city centre. The flight route will take the Jumbo over Spain, thence across the Atlantic to the usual El Al airbase.

The new Jumbo will considerably add to El Al's freight-carrying capacity. During winter months its aft passenger compartment will be converted into a hold, which will permit it to take on an additional eight platforms of cargo (an all-freight Boeing 707 takes a total of 13). With this extra cargo hold, the Jumbo will seat 300 passengers, 80 less than in its normal passenger configuration.

The new arrangement will increase El Al's freight capacity by 40 per cent and will save the company one of its three weekly freight trips to New York.

CARGO BUSINESS
 Mr. David said the freight operations are expected to offset the losses borne by El Al as a result of recent strikes and drop in passenger traffic. Cargo prospects are so promising, he said, that should the company decide to purchase a fourth Jumbo, it would probably order an all-freight version permitting conversion to a passenger configuration within 72 hours.

So far, Lufthansa operates the world's only all-cargo Boeing-747. The El Al executive said he expected air fares to rise about 8 per cent as a result of the recent dollar devaluation. Some American airlines were demanding an 11 per cent hike, while European airlines proposed no more than six per cent, and he thought the two would meet halfway. He said El Al was against raising fares on flights from Israel, except as part of a universal increase.

The airline expected an increase of 40 to 50 per cent in tourists from the U.S. in the next fiscal year, compared with the 100,000 carried in 1972, he said.

NOBEL PHYSICIST:

SELF-DISCIPLINE VS. PERMISSIVE SOCIETY

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter
 "The older generation may not always know best, but it generally knows better than the younger one. Do you know what the younger generation really wants? To be put in its place by the older generation. It wants to be guided and trained and disciplined. And saying this has never made me popular."

This is stated by Professor Dennis Gabor, who received the 1971 Nobel Prize in physics for developing three-dimensional photography (holography). A charming man of 72 with mid-dimensional interests in music, literature, sociology, and the state of man — he admits that his main interest is "worrying about the future."

Hungarian-born, educated in Hungary and Germany (pre-Hitler), he now makes his home in England, where he has taught and worked for decades, with secondary homes in the U.S. and Italy. He is a member of the prestigious "Club of Rome," an international group of intellectuals whose dire predictions about the "limits of growth" has initiated a tidal wave of interest — and in many charges that its sooth-sayings were those of "gloomy preachers of doom."

The "thesis of the 'Club of Rome'" is a simple one: the world is fast running out of its natural resources, and unless mankind begins to discipline itself, it is in for some very hard times. "Within 100 years, there will be a world crisis due to the depletion of the natural resources."

SEARCH FOR SUBSTITUTE

"Do you know, that even though America can produce oil — true, much more expensive than importing it — from coal, of which it has enough for 300 or 400 years, or from oil shale, of which it has enough for 150 years, not one pilot plant to extract oil from coal or oil shale has been set up in the U.S.," he asked.

Self-discipline, Prof. Gabor says, should begin right away. "Let's do away with this 'permissive education' which has educated a generation to be 'washed, bored and egotistical' and laid the foundations for a drug culture and a degenerating society."

"Students must make an effort to learn: they have to study," he says. Question: Are you in favour

Mt. Scopus site for Supreme Court

A plan for a new Supreme Court building on Mount Scopus was approved yesterday by the Jerusalem District Planning Commission. The building, a fortress-like structure, is to be erected near the Augusta Victoria Hospital. It will contain facilities for the court administration and law library as well.

The Court has been lodged in its present premises, in the Russian Compound in downtown Jerusalem, since the Mandatory period. (Itim)

Mine discovered in North Sinai

Jerusalem Post Military Correspondent
 An army patrol yesterday discovered a mine on a road near Sheikh Zaid in Northern Sinai. It was dismantled before any damage could be caused.

This was the second mine found in the area in a week. The first injured two soldiers.

The mine was discovered lying on the road leading to the village. It seems that it was in the process of being laid when the army patrol arrived. A search is being conducted for the men responsible.

4,392 IMMIGRATED LAST MONTH

Jerusalem Post Reporter
 February immigration totalled 4,392, compared to 3,551 in February 1972. The number of immigrants from the Soviet Union during the month was 2,507 compared to 1,796 a year ago.

The figure for January was 4,227, compared to 5,070 in January, 1972.

British books on Israel at Knesset

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter
 The Knesset library yesterday opened an exhibition of books dealing with Israel which have been published in Britain during the past 25 years. The books were loaned by the British Council, and British Council representative Robin Twiss made the formal presentation. The book exhibit will remain open in the Knesset library till the middle of March.



One hundred works by Picasso, part of his 1968 series "The 347," will be displayed by the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, from today, along with 100 other works by the artist, dating from 1960 to the present. They are part of a collection contributed to the Museum recently. Above: an etching from the collection.

Probe of price and quality of auto spare parts

Jerusalem Post Reporter
 Following persistent complaints by car owners about the price, quality and supply of automobile spare parts, the Transport Ministry has appointed a committee to investigate the spare parts industry.

The committee will check sources of local and imported parts and quality control methods. Prices and possible steps against price gouging will also be investigated, the Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The committee is composed of Transport and Commerce and Industry Ministry officials. It is headed by Mr. A. Arbel of the Transport Ministry.

Alignment won't debate Arabs and Writers Ass'n

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter
 The executive of the Alignment Knesset faction has torpedoed a bid by Mapam's Reuven Arzi to table a motion in the plenum about the membership of the Israel Writers Association.

The majority on the executive voted to prevent Mr. Arzi from urging that the Writers Association be opened to Israeli Arabs, as well as Jews.

(The Writers Association, at a conference last month, voted by a small majority to keep Arabs out — a vote which Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yigal Alon deprecated personally, last week in the House.)

Awaiting Foreign Ministry officials told her after she stepped off her plane that the man had in the meantime regained consciousness and identified himself. He is not her husband.

Mrs. Sidorek was put up in a Tel Aviv hotel last night, and is due to return to France today. (Itim)

Criticism of TV 'uninformed nonsense'

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter
 Israel TV director Yeshayahu Tadmor told the Knesset Education Committee yesterday that staff charges aired in Committee last week about waste of money in Israel TV, concealed unemployment, and inefficient management were "ill-informed nonsense."

Mr. Tadmor told the Committee (which is studying the state of the TV service) that the trouble in TV House was due partly to dissatisfaction at the monotony of the work; and partly to the multiplicity of workers committees.

Postponed soccer games today

Jerusalem Post Sports Reporter
TEL AVIV. — The National League soccer game between Jerusalem Hapoel and Jaffa Maccabi which was washed out because of rain Saturday will take place at the Katamon ground in Jerusalem today.

League A fixtures postponed on Saturday will also be played today: Rishon LeZion Hapoel v Holon Hapoel, Sha'arayim Maccabi v Ashdod Hapoel and Tiberias Hapoel v Mahaze Yehuda Hapoel.

The Rumanian soccer champions S.C. Ardes will play against the national youth team in Netanya at 8.30 p.m.

Libyan co-pilot off critical list

Jerusalem Post Reporter
 The co-pilot of the downed Libyan plane, Aid el-Mehdi, was reported off the critical list last night.

El-Mehdi has been receiving treatment in a respiratory intensive-care unit at Hadassah Hospital for the past week. He was suffering from inadequate oxygenation of the blood, due to lung injuries.

The hospital's spokesman said that while el-Mehdi was believed out of danger, doctors were still guarded with their prognosis. The improvements in his condition were steady but slow.

The remaining five survivors at the Beersheba hospital are reported to be making satisfactory progress.

French steward flown home — getting better

LOD AIRPORT. — Still a very sick man but on the way to recovery, Jean Pierre Burdiat was flown home to France yesterday morning. (Reuters reports the plane arrived an hour ahead of schedule in Paris after skipping a stop in Nice. Burdiat was rushed to hospital.)

The 40-year-old French steward, one of seven survivors of the Libyan jet airline disaster, was flown by army helicopter from the Soroka Medical Centre in Beersheba. Israeli Air Force men placed him on a special stretcher which was lifted by a crane to the level of the rear compartment door of the Air France plane.

His wife, who arrived shortly after the disaster to be at his bedside, accompanied him aboard the plane. She refused to talk at length to newsmen, saying only that the fact her husband was alive today was largely due to the dedicated care he received at the hospital.

Arriving later yesterday on a futile mission was the wife of one of the passengers killed on the plane. Mrs. Thaddeus Sidorek, a French citizen, had heard that one of the patients in Beersheba hospital had not regained consciousness and was still unidentified.

A waiting Foreign Ministry official told her after she stepped off her plane that the man had in the meantime regained consciousness and identified himself. He is not her husband.

Mrs. Sidorek was put up in a Tel Aviv hotel last night, and is due to return to France today. (Itim)

Memorial meeting for Sinai crash victims

A Jewish, Christian and Moslem interfaith memorial meeting commemorating the men, women and children who lost their lives in the Libyan plane disaster in Sinai was held yesterday at Beit Agron in Jerusalem.

Among the speakers — who read prayers in four languages — were the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Rev. George Appleton, the Kadai of Jaffa, Sheikh Tawfik Mahmoud, Avigdor Ha'Aviv, the Greenberg, Vice-Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; and Bernard Resnikoff, director of the American Jewish Committee.

Priority on investigating mission attacks

Jerusalem Post Reporter
 Police Minister Shimon Hillel said yesterday that police were giving top priority to clearing up the recent spate of attacks against missions and mission personnel.

Addressing students at the Law Faculty of the Hebrew University, Mr. Hillel said everything possible would be done to prevent interference with religious activity. He said the police were presently assembling evidence against a number of suspects in the attack on a mission on the Mount of Olives.

Asked about the explosion aboard a pilgrim ship in Beirut Harbour Saturday, Mr. Hillel linked it to the murder of the American and Belgian diplomats in Khartoum by Arab terrorists. The fact that Arab terrorists have to resort to "capturing" the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Khartoum and attacking a pilgrim vessel in an Arab harbour does not speak highly of their operational ability, he said.

'Ministry of environment' recommended

Jerusalem Post Knesset Reporter
 The Knesset Ecology Committee yesterday recommended unanimously that the Government must set up a special "ministry for the environment." It also recommended that the Government report once yearly to the Knesset on the state of the environment in Israel.

The Ecology Committee stressed that advanced countries which had undergone ecological changes like Israel had passed special laws to handle the new problems which had arisen. Most had established separate ministries for the environment, and set up administrative apparatuses to cope with the situation and enforce regulations.

In Israel, however, no Government body existed which could concentrate the responsibility for enforcing the laws, the Ecology Committee said.

(The Committee's recommendations were made on a motion referred to it from the plenum 21 months ago. The motion had been tabled originally by Committee chairman Yosef Tamir.)

Tow truck strike continues today

Jerusalem Post Reporter
 The 300 tow truck operators affiliated with the Garage Association (I.G.A.) are continuing their strike today.

About 75 tow trucks festooned with signs such as "The police threaten our livelihood" remain parked on and near the Binyanei Ha'Ooma parking lot in the Capital. The protest parade of tow trucks in front of the Knesset called for 4 p.m. yesterday was cancelled apparently due to the rain.

The truckers are protesting the exclusive contract awarded by the police to the Magor towing company, which is not a member of the I.G.A. Police say that Magor won the contract by entering the lowest bid.

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GENERAL ELECTRIC

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Communist boycott over P.O.W. release

SAIGON (AP). — North Vietnam and the Vietcong announced yesterday they will boycott sessions of the four-party Joint Military Commission and its sub-commission on prisoners until Saigon raises the number of Communist prisoners scheduled for release.

If not quickly solved, the impasse could throw the already largely ineffective and bickering Commission into chaos and threaten the completion of the repatriation of all prisoners by the March 28 deadline as stipulated in the peace accord.

U.S. officials said the announcement took them by surprise since the Communist delegation made no such threat at yesterday morning's joint meeting of the chiefs of delegations and the subcommission on prisoners.

The international peacekeeping mission, known as the International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS), however, reported unanimous agreement for the first time since it came to South Vietnam, but remained split on a complaint by the U.S.-South Vietnamese side that the Communists had set up a missile site at Khe Sanh, just below the demilitarized zone, after the January 23 cease-fire.

The ICCS, made up of Indonesia, Canada, Poland, and Hungary, sent unanimous reports to the Joint Military Commission on its investigations of heavy fighting at the port of A Huynh and a rock-throwing incident at Hue in which six North Vietnamese representatives were reported injured, according to Ambassador Michel Gauvin of Canada.

But the discord on the prisoner issue seemed to overshadow this first report of progress by the international cease-fire watchdogs.

The walk-out by the North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegations pushed back on the agenda a proposal by the U.S. for a renewed joint appeal to field commanders to stop the shooting, and discussion of surface-to-air missile batteries the U.S. and South Vietnamese have charged the North Vietnamese with installing after the cease-fire.

Meanwhile at Clark Air Base, in the Philippines, a group of 34 prisoners of war — including 30 Americans and the only known female POW — flew in from Hanoi yesterday, marking the halfway point in the attempt to release all prisoners from Communist prisons by the end of the month.

In one of the most emotional welcomes since Operation Homecoming began last month, the families of two Filipino POWs who had been captured while working for the "Voice of America" swarmed over the men, hugging and kissing them.

The latest POW group consisted of 27 U.S. servicemen, three American civilians and two West Germans, including nurse Monika Schwinn, the only known female held by the Communists.

(AP, UPI)

Toll now nine shot dead in Bangladesh election campaign

DACCA (Reuters). — Two supporters of Bangladesh's ruling Awami League Party were shot dead on Sunday night, police sources said here yesterday.

The killings at Rangpur, about 270 kms. north of Dhacca, and at Chittagong, 250 kms. southeast of the capital, are the latest in a series of violence during campaigning in general elections scheduled for tomorrow.

Seven persons, two of them leaders of the ruling party, were shot dead last week.



American Indian Movement (AIM) official Dennis Banks (left) holds up a burning paper on which the U.S. government had offered to allow the Indians who seized Wounded Knee, South Dakota last Tuesday to leave freely without threat of arrest. Russel Means, another AIM official, who lit the paper looks on.

Pope names 31 new cardinals

VATICAN CITY (UPI). — Pope Paul VI yesterday added 31 new cardinals as princes of the Roman Catholic Church, then decreed a limit on the number who will be allowed to elect his successor.

In a simple consistory reduced from the four days of ceremony in the past to only one, the Pope invested 30 new princes and disclosed the two secret cardinals known only to himself from the 1969 consistory. They are Cardinal Stepan Trochta of Czechoslovakia and Julius Hossu of Romania. Hossu died in May, 1970.

The new cardinals bring to 145 the number of princes of the church and to 117 the number eligible to vote in the next conclave to elect a successor to Paul. Their number makes the college the largest, youngest and most international in its 1,000-year history.

The Pope said he considered the consistory an opportune time to lay

down a new rule with regard to cardinals who have the right of electing the Roman Pontiff.

"We thus decree that the number of cardinals entitled to participate in that election must not exceed 120," the Pope said. "We hope, moreover, that this carefully considered norm will have lasting effect."

The new cardinals range from a South Sea Island bishop to a Polish prelate with a flock of four million Catholics. Congo received its first cardinal and, along with another from Kenya, made five black Africans on the college.

Some of the new cardinals were long expected — such as Archbishop Humberto S. Medeiros of Boston and Timothy Manning of Los Angeles. Their addition brought to 11 the number of mainland U.S. cardinals. Also elevated was Archbishop Luis Aponte Martinez of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The list also included five Latin American prelates, two Spaniards, two Australians, two Frenchmen, a German, a Portuguese, a Palestinian and a Japanese. Eight of the new cardinals were Italian, replacing eight other Italians who died since the last consistory.

'Connally for President, to switch parties'

NEW YORK (AP). — Texas Democrat John Connally has told people he intends to become a Republican and run for President in 1976 with a black senator as vice-presidential running mate, "Newsweek" said on Sunday.

The ground swell of reports that John Connally, President Nixon's favorite Democrat, plans to switch parties and prepare for a 1976 White House try seems to have sprung from a good source — Connally himself.

"During a recent visit with American oil men in Saudi Arabia, the former Texas governor, in an expansive mood, said that he would indeed switch parties and would try to get Massachusetts Republican Senator Edward Brooke, the only black U.S. senator, to run with him," "Newsweek" said.

"The word got back to the U.S. when a member of Connally's audience wrote to a close friend of Vice-President Spiro Agnew, another 1976 presidential hopeful. It was promptly relayed to the president."

German police find missing van's money

MOENCHENGLADBACH (AP). — West German police, using a map drawn by the key suspect in an armed robbery, dug up yesterday three sacks containing what was believed to be nearly DM3.5m. in missing loot.

The money, still in the original money sacks reinforced by plastic, was dug up in a woods north of this industrial city near the Dutch border. The map was drawn by Guenter Heinemann, the 27-year-old driver of the money van who disappeared on February 29 together with nearly DM3.5m. he was to transport to a Dusseldorf bank.

Heinemann and a second man were arrested by Dutch police near Den Helder last Thursday night and have been questioned by German police. The second man has been identified by police as Heinrich L. von den Berg, a 39-year-old salesman from Moenchengladbach. The two are being held, pending extradition.

CARNIVAL. — More than 15,000 persons were treated in hospitals in Rio de Janeiro and in Sao Paulo during the first 36 hours of carnival. Most of the cases resulted from "fights and traffic accidents." The carnival began on Saturday and will run through to the early hours of Wednesday.

Four of Turkey's five presidents have been ex-generals, including Mr. Sunay, who was formerly Chief of the General Staff. In efforts to win backing from General Gurlek's candidacy, military leaders three weeks ago initiated a series of meetings with political party chiefs.

South Africa leads Uruguay in Davis Cup

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay (Reuters). — South Africa celebrated their return to the Davis Cup by taking a 2-0 lead over Uruguay on the first day of their South American zone match against Uruguay here on Sunday.

Frew McMillan put South Africa ahead when he beat Alberto La-borde 6-0, 6-2, 6-1 and Pat Cramer added a second victory when he defeated Gustavo Stappi 6-0, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.

South Africa were banned from the Davis Cup in 1970 after their apartheid policies had provoked a threat of a boycott by some East European countries. They were readmitted in July, but were placed in the South American zone to keep them clear of their European critics.

Evert wins in pro tennis debut

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (Reuters). — American tennis prodigy Chris Evert completed her highly successful professional debut by crushing Britain's Virginia Wade, 6-1, 6-2 in the final of the \$50,000 S and H Green Stamp tennis classic here on Sunday.

The victory was worth \$10,000 to the 18-year-old Miss Evert, who had to the 18-year-old Miss Wade at her mercy virtually from the beginning of the match.

L.I.B. — The first World Festival of Women's Liberation will be held on the Isle of Man next September, the organizers announced in London yesterday.

68 killed as two Spanish planes collide

NANTES, France. — Two Spanish airliners believed to be carrying foreign tourists collided near here yesterday and one crashed in flames killing all 68 aboard, police reported.

The crashed twin-engine DC9 plane was flight 504 of the Spanish airline Iberia, on its way from Palma, Majorca, to London, when it crashed a Convair Coronado aircraft of the Spantax charter company.

The DC9 jet fell to the ground in a ball of flames killing all 60 adult passengers, one infant and the crew of seven.

The Coronado limped into a French military airfield at Cognac, south of here. One wing was badly damaged from the collision but it was later said that there were no injuries.

The crash came while air lanes over France were in control of the military, replacing civilian air traffic controllers who have been on strike for the past two weeks.

The French Air Line Pilots Association said they had received a message from the U.S. Air Line Pilots Association, describing military control as "a very high risk situation."

Gendarmerie officials said the wreckage of the DC9 was spread over a wide area of agricultural land. A watchman found the plane's flight log 12 kms. from the main wreckage.

Girl, 21, has vagina transplant—from mother

LONDON (AP). — A 21-year-old Greek girl had a vagina successfully transplanted from her widowed mother in a bid to lead a normal sex life and save her marriage, the doctors' magazine "Medical News" reported yesterday.

The paper said the transplant, believed to be the first of its kind, was performed by Dr. Nikolaos Papanicolaou of Salonika's Aristotelian university in 1971.

According to the report, Papanicolaou was approached by the young couple two months after their marriage, when the husband was considering annulment. Examination showed the girl had no vagina and was unable to reach orgasm.

Dr. Papanicolaou, the article said, considered transplanting a vagina from a relative until he learned the girl's 48-year-old mother was awaiting an operation for uterine repair.

The mother was reportedly discharged from hospital 10 days after her operation, and there were no complications.

Her daughter was able to have normal sexual intercourse three weeks after her operation and experienced an orgasm, the article said, encouraging three similar transplant operations on other girls.

The couple are now divorced, the report said, but the girl is planning to marry again.

Turkish CoS quits, may be President

ANKARA (Reuters). — General Faruk Gurlek retired yesterday as Turkey's Chief of Staff, clearing the way for his election as the country's next President.

The 58-year-old general is expected to be appointed to the Senate to take the place of Defence Minister Mehmet Imen, who yesterday resigned his Senate seat.

Parliament is due to elect the new head of state in succession to President Cevdet Sunay from among members of the Senate and National Assembly (lower house) on March 13. General Gurlek's candidacy has not been officially announced, but military leaders, who play an important backstage role in Turkish politics, have been campaigning behind the scenes for his election.

Four of Turkey's five presidents have been ex-generals, including Mr. Sunay, who was formerly Chief of the General Staff. In efforts to win backing from General Gurlek's candidacy, military leaders three weeks ago initiated a series of meetings with political party chiefs.

Stalemate after Chile elections

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP). — President Salvador Allende's Marxist government increased its strength in Chile's National Congress yesterday as returns came in from Sunday's parliamentary balloting.

Not only did left-wing candidates beat off the threat of impeachment of Allende by anti-Marxist candidates, but they also picked up seats in the Upper Senate and lower chamber with almost all returns in.

The opposition, however, maintained its control in both chambers of the congress.

The election thus failed to resolve either way a political stalemate that has existed for months between the government and the opposition.

The opposition candidates were running ahead of the leftists about 54-44 per cent in the returns, with important Santiago province still not counted.

Other percentage points went for a splinter party and spoiled ballots. Roaming bands of demonstrators from both sides who celebrated in the narrow downtown streets of Santiago were dispersed early yesterday by riot firing volleys of tear gas canisters.

President Allende, speaking to the nation following Sunday's massive voter turnout, claimed his coalition had won unprecedented support for his socialist programmes.

However, former Christian Democratic president Eduardo Frei, a Senate candidate and leading spokesman for Chile's anti-Marxist opposition, said late Sunday night the election was a "definite victory" for the opposition.

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Mrs. MEIR'S DECISION

THE entire Labour Party complex was enthusiastic yesterday at the prospect that Prime Minister Meir may, after all, have decided to accept her party's urgent plea that she remain in office, if not necessarily for another full term, then at least through the coming elections and for a year or more after that date.

The report was set in motion by the reply given by Mrs. Meir to interviewers on the C.B.S. television programme in the United States, who wanted to know whether she would remain Premier, and in which she said that in this matter she would be guided by her party's wishes. For the past year or more, Mrs. Meir has said firmly that she does not wish to stay for another term. Since then there has been a half-hearted denial, denied in its turn.

It is probably a fair guess to assume that Mrs. Meir would not have said unthinkingly that she would accept her party's decision in this important matter if she were unalterably opposed to accepting what she knows this decision to be; and the half-denial may well be a matter of not wishing this important piece of news to appear to come from an American TV programme.

Her leadership since the death of Levi Eshkol in 1969 has been effective and she has earned a very high degree of support among the public. At the same time it is known that she herself wishes to retire, not only because she has reached and passed retirement age and is entitled to respite from the almost intolerable strain imposed on an Israeli premier, but also because she apparently feels that some of the social and ethnic problems in Israel today are outside the scope of her view of Zionism and should be solved by those

who are closer to the government's critics in age and experience.

The real crux of the problem is, of course, that the nominal fusion of the three labour groups — Mapai, Ahdut Ha'avoda and Rafi — and their left-wing partner in the Alignment, Mapam, is far from complete as regards policies, and less so still as regards personalities. There is not the least doubt that Finance Minister Sapir has full control of what is known as the party "machine", or organization, and that the "machine" men are waiting for him to become premier and consolidate the party; just as there is no doubt that a very wide range of the party's membership and election-time supporters would much prefer to see Defence Minister Dayan as premier to say nothing of other possible contenders.

The resultant tensions may be below the surface, but they are sharp. Mr. Sapir does not wish to have to confront them in the open, and Mr. Dayan has neither taste nor talent for party fighting. Both men have many allies in the joint party, but even these do not really wish to see either man leave the government as the result of a conflict on policy. Thus the only easy solution at the present time is that Mrs. Meir should remain, not so much holding the balance as saving the party the need to decide where it is going.

Crucial decisions may be required within the next year, and they should be taken by a government that represents as wide a spectrum of opinion as possible. For this reason alone, if for no other, it will be warmly welcomed if Mrs. Meir remains, and by opponents as well as by supporters. This is surely the ultimate mark of approval for any national leader.

With Prejudice ! by Alex Berlyne

An old French tradition

THE resurrection of Pétain for a weekend in Paris had its lighter moments. It reminded me of that old British working-class song, which I can only quote in a laudered version: "They're digging up father's grave to build a sewer." However, it also had its mysterious side: how did they smuggle the body all the way to Paris? I think I've hit upon the answer — they used those subterranean passages which absolutely riddle the soil of France and were made by the Jews for smuggling their White Slave victims to waiting submarines.

In case you are wondering what I'm babbling about, I'm referring to the spate of rumours which spread through France from 1959 onwards, infecting Toulouse, Tours, Limoges, Douai, Rouen, Le Mans, Lille, Valenciennes, Poitiers, Châtelleraut and Paris until it finally exploded in Orleans 10 years later and hit the world's headlines. In brief, the story had it that in a number of Orleans dress shops all Jewish-owned, girls had been injected with hypodermic syringes in the fitting booths and carried down into the cellars to be transported through ancient underground passages to the Loire, thence to be shipped by submarine to the brothels of the Middle East. This rubbish was generally believed in Orleans, as has been amply documented in a book by the French sociologist Edgar Morin, and, when belatedly denied by the mayor and the chief of police, gave rise to a further crop of stories that these two had been bought by the Jews.

Old-style calumny

Here is an unvarnished version of the old-style anti-Semitism, with all the obligatory Dracula-like myth in full flower. It's as old as the Anti-Christ and part of the heritage of Western Europe. Just contemplate the subterranean passages part, an image of the mouth of Hell. We've become so used to political anti-Semitism since the rise of the squalid Third Reich that we tend to forget the good old reliable brand that is still buried deep in the consciousness of so-called civilized peoples. Its usual manifestation, of course, was the Blood Libel, with its tales of the murder of Christian children so that their blood could be used in the manufacture of matzo. As a consequence of unlearned bread, I've always been particularly irritated by this calumny. Fancy messing up a good crisp piece of matzo with Christian or any other kind of blood for that matter.

I believe that in the exaggerated hypocritical reaction to the Libyan plane disaster we have further proof of how alive and flourishing the archaic style of

anti-Semitism is. It had been shamed into quiescence for a couple of decades after Auschwitz, but now it appears to have been vigorously rejuvenated.

When Oppul's film "Le Chagrin et le Pitié" was screened here and on British TV recently it put paid to a few myths about the French. I have long been immune to what Arthur Koestler once termed "The French Flu". When I read his 1943 essay, later reprinted in "The Yogi and the Commissar," I recognized the symptoms immediately, for they were all about me in the School of Art where I was serving my time. Briefly, the English intellectual held that everything was better in France — a point which had been made a couple of centuries earlier by Laurence Stern in the famous opening line of "A Sentimental Journey." As Koestler put it "L'usage du cabinet est interdit pendant l'arrêt du train en gare" means only that you should not use the toilet while the train is in the station but (to the English intellectual) it sounds like the pure harmonies of the spheres.

Dark suspicions

My father had implanted dark suspicions of things French in my child mind when he told me of his experiences in World War I. As he and other British wounded lay in their blood in the fifth of a farmyard on the Somme, which was serving as an advanced dressing station, a jolly French peasant was making the rounds, selling them water. Twenty years later, this early training made me view all the heartening tales of the gallant French resistance with more than a grain of salt and I was hardly surprised when, after a decent interval, the truth began to emerge.

It was clear that the majority of the French people had collaborated with the Nazis, or at least found some form of *modus vivendi* with them. This by no means denigrates the very real achievement of the several tens of thousands who fought the Occupation, often being betrayed by their fellow-countrymen. As M.E.D. Foot's Official War History "S.O.E. in France" makes so abundantly clear. Unfortunately the Allies, for reasons of their own, over-emphasized the French contribution to the Liberation until the whole country from De Gaulle downwards began to suffer from a form of collective amnesia, believing they did it on their own. In fact their contribution was insignificant compared to the role of the British and the American forces.

The record of the Vichy government, led by Pétain and Laval was, in fact, worse than any country in occupied Europe. They zealously exceeded the demands



French Resistance fighter in World War II — but most Frenchmen learnt to live with the Nazis.

of the Nazi overlords and in the notorious Aktion of July 16, 1942, the French police collected even the Jewish children, which had not been asked for by Eichmann's Bureau. Laval refused to rectify this error and more than 4,000 Jewish children were shipped from Drancy to the furnaces of Auschwitz. As Professor Wellers told the Eichmann court, "some of them were barely two or three years old and did not even know their names." Of course these were the children of "foreign" Jews, for Laval squared his conscience by protecting the French-born.

French anti-Semitism has a venerable ancestry. Voltaire referred to the Jews as "the lowest of all nations." Ernest Renan spoke of "the appalling simplicity of the Semitic mind" and one of the greatest contributors to the potty racial theories which stained the 19th century was the Comte de Gobineau. Others, who should have known better, include Degas and the dress-designer Coco Chanel. The latter was nurtured on the Dreyfus Affair, one of the greatest frame-ups of all time. Some months ago we had the opportunity of seeing Captain Dreyfus's daughter on TV who told us that she considered herself first and foremost a Frenchwoman. This touched me right on the funny-bone or, as they would have it in France, *le petit-fuf*.

STRUGGLE FOR INFLUENCE IN THE GULF

MADRAS, (Oms). — WHEN Pakistan discovered a cache of Soviet-made weapons in the Iraqi Embassy in Islamabad recently, India's Foreign Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh, was paying a visit to sheikhdoms on the Persian Gulf. The two events are by no stretch of imagination linked, but both can be seen as moves to secure influence in the oil-laden Gulf area.

Iran and Saudi Arabia, two of the major littoral States, are as Rightist as they come — royalist Muslim nations. Iraq of the Baathists, on the other hand, is a police State ruled by an ultra-nationalistic, left-wing, pan-Arab group. And it is Iran and Iraq who are main rivals for influence over the small oil-rich States like Kuwait and Bahrain, Qatar and Oman, Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and other Trucial sheikhdoms.

But India has been fishing along the shores of the Persian Gulf, which is looked upon by Iran as its private lake. India is as much interested in the oil wealth of the sheikhdoms as it is in being friends with Iraq, because Iraq can provide a counterweight to Iran's friendship with Pakistan.

Secessionists

The arms found in the Iraqi Embassy in the Pakistani capital were almost certainly destined for rebels in Baluchistan, on either side of the Pakistan-Iran border. In Baluchistan, one of Pakistan's four provinces, there is a strong secessionist movement which has taken with a Baluchi guerrilla movement in eastern Iran. Stirring up the Baluchis in Iran would suit Iraq's desire to stop Iranian help being given to the Kurds in northern Iraq.

India's nomadic Kurds stopped fighting for autonomy when they reached an accord with the Baghdad Government in 1970, but they claim that none of the promises made by Baghdad has been kept and they are ripe to revolt again. Iran would like to help them. But Iraq seems to have been getting to the Kurds this first — and, in turn, Iraq would not object to any given to any movement that would keep Pakistan and its allies, especially rich, and military strong Iran, off-balance.

The Shah has recently talked about making Iran an India Ocean Power, seeking naval facilities in Mauritius, about "allowing" Pakistan to disengage while allowing his own eastern frontier to "crumble" a hint, perhaps, of a virtual special relationship with Pakistan, and possibly even a confederation. These statements, along with the Shah's indication that Iranian naval interests may go as far as to consider the southern part of the Arabian Sea its domain, are all matter of concern for India.

India's best prospects in the region would be collaboration agreements to develop minerals and other resources which India lacks, and to encourage these Arab States to invest in Indian development. For investment some of India's first moves were made towards Iraq and a contract has been signed for crude from an Iraqi Government-owned oilfield that is being developed with Russian help. Other deals in Iraq are being negotiated.

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ISRAEL PRESS DISEASE OF VIOLENCE

Davar (Histadrut) writes: "It would appear that even after the Khartoum crime, the Arab countries will not take steps to prevent the continued activity of the terrorist organizations, and will continue to support them. For the rest of the world, however, clear facts have emerged in Khartoum, most notably — as stated by the Sudanese themselves — the identity between Black September and Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organization."

At Hamishmar (Mapam) writes: "The object failure of the terrorists is proof that there is no need to surrender to extortion. On the other hand, this disease of international violence will not be rooted out unless the world demands that the Arab countries combat it. The bloody affair at Khartoum could be the beginning of the end of this threat against the civilized world, provided the necessary conclusions are really drawn."

Hatzofe (National Religious): "Khartoum can either continue to identify herself with the Arab terrorists and not invoke the full severity of the law against them, or else she can throw the book at them — taking into consideration

the demands of the U.S. whose aid is essential for Sudan."

She'arim (Poalei Agudat Yisrael): "Faced with the possibility of being murdered by Black September, or the cessation of American aid to Sudan, Numeiri will clearly choose to give in to the terrorists."

Hamodis (Agudat Yisrael) writes: "The crime in Khartoum was badly conceived. It harmed the cause for which Black September claims to be fighting, it perplexed the Arab countries, it aroused the U.S., and it blackened the terrorist organizations purporting to represent the Palestinians. The dastardly crime in Khartoum should serve to give the world a better understanding of Israel's conduct in the affair of the Libyan plane."

Ha'aretz (non-party) writes that the Prime Minister's visit in the U.S. is crowned with success and goes on to say: "Her visit deepens the understanding she has with the U.S. leadership and consolidates Israel's standing. Israel may thus rely upon the active sympathy of the U.S. still, we must not relax in our efforts to attain peace with the Arabs, for after all, Jews and Arabs do share the Middle East."

Readers' letters

No tow-trucking problems in Haifa

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
 Sir, — With reference to the tow-truckers' strike in Tel-Aviv it may interest your readers that here in Haifa we solved the problem way back in 1968.

At that time the Haifa truckers made similar complaints to those now voiced by their colleagues in Tel-Aviv and after the Better Business Bureau of Haifa delved into the matter, a number of meetings took place at the Traffic Police Office, in which the BB of Haifa was represented by our legal adviser Advocate Y. Shaanan.

The Traffic Police, headed by Paked Gutman, reached the following arrangement with the tow-truckers:

- The tow-truckers were to keep a roster whereby one of a number of telephone numbers would always be available to the Traffic Police to call upon in the event of a tow-truck being required.
- The Traffic Police would merely call the telephone number then on duty, giving the particulars of the towing services required.
- The rest was left to the person on duty on behalf of the tow-truckers to arrange among themselves.

This arrangement was accompanied by a subsidiary one whereby each tow-trucker undertook to charge a reasonable fee for his services and in the event of there being differences of opinion as to the fee, a member of an appointed panel of assessors would determine the proper fee, which would be binding on all concerned.

To the best of our knowledge this arrangement has functioned satisfactorily ever since.
 M. J. GERSON President, Better Business Bureau Haifa, February 27.

Lost opportunity

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
 Sir, — I am not a football fan and certainly wouldn't ask for more sports programmes on TV. But I am sure thousands of TV viewers would have loved to watch part of last's night football match between Israel and the Argentine.

Events like these provide an ideal opportunity for Israel TV to prove its raison d'être and regain some of its lost prestige. And for once our TV could have made its existence felt, not through its usual dose of boring, depressing and outdated programmes, but through something fresh, light and topical. After all, shouldn't TV catch history in the making, instead of waiting until it becomes a thing of the past?
 SABAH SALMAN
 Ramat Aviv, February 21.

Fighting marine pollution

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
 Sir, — The recent finding of Technion scientists that edible flesh of fish collected from Haifa Bay contains up to 2 ppm of mercury is alarming. The maximum allowable concentration (MAC) of mercury in the United States is 0.5 ppm (not 5 ppm as reported in The Jerusalem Post article of Feb. 23); therefore some Israeli fish contain four times the MAC. It is almost certain that other organisms in Haifa Bay, especially filter-feeding shellfish, will concentrate mercury to even higher levels than fish.

If mercury were the only contaminant challenging public health in Israel via marine food chain, life would be comparatively simple for both environmentalists and industrialists. But, unfortunately, almost nothing is known about the nature, composition and effects of mixed wastes discharged directly into Israel's waters or indirectly from other countries. Nor is there a single agency that presently coordinates the efforts of the limited number of engineers, toxicologists, oceanographers, marine biologists and others that are working actively on Israel's marine environmental problems.

In my opinion, a multi-disciplinary approach is necessary in order to establish a meaningful base for effective environmental protection legislation. Haifa Bay, for example, receives many pollutants in addition to mercury, including salts of other heavy metals, acid wastes and petrochemicals. The situation in Eilat is different, with crude oil, oil counteracting agents, phosphates, and desalination plant effluents, comprising man's major contributions to the Red Sea. Tel Aviv and environs receive almost every conceivable type of industrial, agricultural and domestic wastes found in Israel, and in large quantities.

It appears that Israel has created more environmental problems in the past 25 years than existed in the last 5,000. This trend will undoubtedly accelerate with increasing population density and a higher standard of living.

I believe that a reversal is possible only through direct and immediate governmental intervention, specifically through the formation of a unified environmental protection agency charged with research, monitoring and enforcement functions.

RONALD BISLER
 Visiting Professor of Oceanography and Marine Biology Hebrew University of Jerusalem Marine Biology Laboratory Eilat, February 25.

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